

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Educational Committee

Meeting minutes

May 27, 2004 - 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Charles Stankye, Jr.
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Scott Potter, Ted Schroll
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy – State Fire Administrator, Jeff Morrissette

There were no representatives present from:

New Haven Regional Fire Academy
Wolcott State Fire School

1. **Anticipated release of bond funding**

There was consensus that this discussion would wait until the June meeting.

2. **Action plan discussion**

The committee took a vote at the March meeting to solidify our support for the priority set in year one of the Five-Year Implementation Plan for the capital improvement budget. Directors from each regional school should review the out-years of that plan to determine what the local impact of that plan will be. We should also anticipate the impact of this program taking six to eight years to complete due to lower funding levels than those laid out in that plan.

Please be prepared to begin review of the priority of capital projects at future meetings.

3. **Operational funding for regional fire schools** **Definition of regional fire school**

There was discussion about the operational funding of \$55 K for the Stamford School. No one present had specifics on how the Stamford school services their region. Concern was expressed that this committee should formalize an understanding of what it means to be a regional fire school. There was discussion about whether it would be appropriate for the Stamford school to have representation on this committee. Al Hawkins offered that that decision should come from the Executive Committee of the C.S.F.A. Scott Potter was asked to take the issue back to the next meeting.

Charlie Stankye and Fred Dudek volunteered to make an attempt to compile a draft memorandum of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a regional fire school.

4. Contract documents for use of regional fire school facilities
Possible standardization

Documents developed by staff at the Wolcott State Fire School were distributed for information. There was discussion about the benefit to standardization of release forms to add simplicity for fire departments that utilize more than one regional fire school. Most in attendance felt that the forms were exceedingly good quality and can probably be adopted for local use by most regional schools with few modifications.

5. Other items from membership

There was a discussion about the routing of Federal funding under Homeland Security and FIRE Act grants. Both funding sources include funds for training and both bypass the existing fire training infrastructure in Connecticut. The fear was expressed that this funding would incite an initiative by individual instructors to pursue opportunities to by-pass the C.F.A. and the regional fire schools to train fire service personnel. This could create a new free-lancing initiative.

Mike Jepeal pointed out that certification continues to be conducted at local fire stations that are not including the J.P.R. format. This seems to conflict with information distributed by the Certification staff at our January 2004 meeting.

Rich Nicol brought up the fact that there are more publishers of basic firefighting textbooks each year. NFPA and Jones and Bartlett have just introduced another text. He is concerned about the amount of work that this will create during the validation of test questions for certification exams.

Rich also brought up the vouchers for fire departments responding to the limited access highways. Vouchers issued must be used by the end of the calendar year.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 19:00, in Wethersfield.

submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman